

Yellowstone

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The world’s first national park, Yellowstone, is a wonderland of geysers, hot springs, mud volcanos, canyons, and a wildlife display unsurpassed in the United States. The park was established on March 1, 1872, and now contains about 3,400 square miles in the northwest corner of Wyoming, overlapping into Montana on the north and west and Idaho on the west and south.

The center of the park is a broad, volcanic plateau with an average elevation of about 8,000 feet. On its south, east, north, and northwest are mountain ranges, their highest peaks and ridges rising from 2,000 to 4,000 feet above the general level of the tableland.

Summer temperatures generally range from the 50’s at night to the 70’s during the day; however, there may be freezing temperatures at any time of the year. In winter, Yellowstone country is often the coldest in the Nation.

WHAT TO DO

Driving. Yellowstone has more than 500 miles of public roads. Most major features are adjacent to the Grand Loop Road; several one-way drives lead off the loop to areas of special interest.

All park roads are for leisurely driving only. The maximum speed limit is 45 miles per hour on the primary roads; other road speeds are as posted. If you are in a hurry, you would do well to bypass the park now and come back when you have more time. Motor vehicles and bicycles may be used on roads only. The road striping system in Yellowstone is a solid center line. *Pass with care.*

Camping. Limited camping is available all year; however, the majority of campgrounds are open only from mid-June to mid-September. All are operated on a first-come, first-served basis, and the major campgrounds are usually filled to capacity by noon. Camping or overnight stopping is permitted only in designated campgrounds. When park campgrounds are full, the “camping visitor,” including the person with a recreational vehicle, must find facilities outside the park. Your stay in the park as a camper is limited to 14 days.

Yellowstone is bear country. Maintain a clean camp and keep food locked in the trunk of your car.

Hiking. Trails—more than 1,000 miles—lead from trailheads to remote parts of the park. Some offer easy part-day trips over gentle terrain, others require skill and endurance because of their elevation, length, and ruggedness. All are well marked with directional signs giving destinations and distances. Always check trail conditions with a ranger before setting out on an overnight or long hike. Fire permits are required for all back-country camping.

Fishing. In Yellowstone, fishing means wild trout. All who desire to fish must obtain current information and regulations from a ranger station. Park fishing regulations, strictly enforced, are designed to preserve wild fish populations and maintain high quality angling.

Boating. Permits are required for all types of vessels. Only Yellowstone and Lewis Lakes are open

VISITOR SERVICES

[In May, September, and October, most visitor services are provided only at Mammoth (open all year), Lake, and Old Faithful.]

	Hotel	Cabin (economy-family-regular)	Overnight shelter	Amphitheater	Boat rental	Eating facility	Gas station	Grocery and curio store	Horse rental	Ice	Laundry (self-service)	Medical (hospital-clinic)	Nurse on duty	Photo shop	Post office	Propane service	Rent-a-car	Sewage dump station	Shower	Stagecoach ride	Telegraph	Tour bus	Trailer park with utilities (fee)	Visitor center
Mammoth	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x		x		x	x		x
Norris																								x
Madison				x														x						
Old Faithful	x	x		x		x	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x
West Thumb			x			x	x	x		x			x	x	x				x					
Grant Village				x	x		x			x	x							x						x
Bridge Bay				x	x					x								x						
Lake	x	x	x			x	x	x		x		x		x			x		x		x	x		
Fishing Bridge		x		x		x	x	x		x	x			x	x	x		x	x				x	x
Canyon		x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x		x	x		x
Roosevelt		x		x		x	x	x	x					x					x	x				



to power boating. Shoshone Lake and the arms of Yellowstone Lake are favorite canoe waters. Except for that part of the Lewis River which connects Shoshone and Lewis Lakes, all park rivers and streams are closed to boating to protect nesting waterfowl and wildlife habitats. Remember, high mountain lakes are subject to sudden and extreme weather changes.

Riding. In summer, horses are available for hire for short trips from Canyon, Roosevelt, or Mammoth. For extended trips into the back country, arrangements may be made with one of the many outfitters or guides neighboring the park.

Learning about the park. The National Park Service invites you to take advantage of the many free interpretive programs offered to help you learn about Yellowstone. Visitor centers, conducted

walks and hikes, self-guiding trails, and campfire programs are described in the pamphlet, *Explore Yellowstone!* Ask for a copy at any ranger station or visitor center.

PRESERVING NATURAL FEATURES

In Yellowstone, you see how plants, animals, clean water, clean air, and the land all depend upon one another in the world of nature. Park management is directed toward preserving the natural environment in as free a state as possible from disturbance by man.

Collecting souvenirs, picking flowers, or altering natural features is prohibited. Yellowstone is your park—help keep it clean.

Hunting or the use or display of firearms is prohibited.

Pets must be leashed at all times and are not allowed on trails.

WHAT TO SEE

Thermal features. The Grand Loop Road will take you to major geysers, mud pots, and other thermal areas. They are concentrated north of Old Faithful for several miles, but a variety of thermals—more than 10,000—are found throughout the park.

For an intimate look at the brilliant pools and delicate formations, and maybe the surprise eruption of a trailside geyser, plan to spend some time walking among the thermal basins. Self-guiding trails will help you understand and enjoy the thermal features at Mammoth Terraces, Mud Volcano, Norris Geyser Basin, and Fountain Paint Pots.

Ask a ranger if you want to walk through one of the lesser known hot areas. He will probably tell you about Artist Paint Pots, Shoshone and Heart Geyser Basins, and many other out-of-the-way places of interest.

Thin crusts overlie and conceal pools of boiling water. Each year, many careless visitors are burned. For your safety, stay on the trails or boardwalks at all times, and watch your children carefully. Keep pets under physical restraint.

Wildlife. Elk, bison, moose, bear, and many other forms of wildlife live in Yellowstone all year. Early morning and early evening are the best times for viewing and photographing them. The Hayden Valley area usually provides an outstanding wildlife or waterfowl display. Rangers will be glad to suggest other likely places.

All park animals are wild and potentially dangerous. When you watch animals, park safely off the road, and view roadside bears from the safety of your car with windows closed.

Regulations prohibit feeding or molesting any park wildlife. Do not get close to any animal—you may be in danger, or you might drive them away.

Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Infinite color variety of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the 309-foot Yellowstone Falls are world renowned. Short paths take you from roadside parking to unsurpassed viewpoints on both rims of the canyon. More strenuous trails lead into the canyon for closeups of the falls.

Yellowstone Lake. This immense, high-altitude body of water has a wide range of moods, from quiet early morning charm to the sudden violence of an afternoon thunderstorm. Take time to drive along its shore; capture the sweeping drama from the overlook at Lake Butte. The lake’s southern arms provide a water gateway into one of America’s classic wildernesses.

Other features. Fields of alpine flowers on Dunraven Pass, sheer canyons near Tower and along the Lewis River, waterfalls and cascades on nearly every stream in the park, rugged mountain scenery above the Northeast and East Entrance Roads—these are just a few of the many worthwhile interest points to include in your visit. Most of them are identified by roadside markers.

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WHERE TO STAY

Hotels, lodges, and cabins. Full accommodations are offered from mid-June to Labor Day. Limited accommodations are available in the early and late seasons. Facilities at Mammoth are open all year. Reservations are advised. Write to Yellowstone Park Co., Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

A **trailer village** at Fishing Bridge, general stores, and photo shops are operated by Hamilton Stores, West Yellowstone, MT 59758 (summer); P.O. Box 1230, Santa Monica, CA 90406 (winter).

ADMINISTRATION

Yellowstone National Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation’s principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America’s “Department of Natural Resources.” The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS



CANYON AREA



OLD FAITHFUL AREA



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK



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